

Context & Methodology

Almost 3.7 million refugees have fled Ukraine since the escalation of conflict on 24 February 2022. From among them, 563,519 have been displaced to Romania (UNHCR). The number of people crossing has fluctuated in the days since the escalation, and it can be anticipated that it will vary with the intensity and geography of conflict in the next days or weeks.

To understand the drivers of displacement and intentions of refugees, 372 interviews were conducted with people crossing from Ukraine into Romania. Interviews were conducted at every border checkpoint and certain reception centers, and began on 28 February. This factsheet includes cumulative responses from 28 February to 23 March. Following this data collection, select interviewees will be contacted for long-form qualitative interviews to gain a longitudinal understanding of their experience of displacement.

Interviewees were selected purposively to gain a broader understanding of experiences and intentions, and results should therefore be considered indicative.

The data collection tool was modified after the deployment and therefore the sample size differs for certain questions; for some of them, the sample size is provided.

Demography

Gender of the respondent

Female	301	86%
Male	49	14%



Nationality of the respondent

Ukrainian	92%
Russian	3%
Other	5%



Respondents reporting travelling with the following population groups¹

Children 0-5 years of age	37%
Children 6-18 years of age	61%
Elderly (65+ years of age)	13%
Pregnant and lactating women	3%
Persons with disabilities	6%

Number of people traveling with respondents

Alone	11%
1 - 4	72%
5 +	17%



Most reported pre-displacement employment status of respondents²

Wholesale and retail trade	12%
Education (including students and teachers)	11%
Health care	4%
Hotel and restaurants	4%

Origins and Arrivals

98% of respondents reported holding a passport

Reasons for leaving the area of origin^{1,3}

Active conflict (incl. troops) in the settlement	56%
Damage in or near the settlement	30%
Worry that active fightings will come to the settlement	26%

Most frequent regions (oblasts) of origin⁴

Kyiv	96	26%
Odesa	69	19%
Mykolaiv	57	15%
Kharkiv	46	12%
Donetsk	16	4%

Reason for selecting border crossing²

Most direct route to border	41%
Shorter queues at the crossing	14%
Most convenient for future plans	13%
Other reasons	18%

Most frequently reported modalities of border crossing²

Foot	148	42%
Car	115	33%
Bus	48	14%
Train	6	2%

Intentions

Top 3 intended destination countries of respondents

Germany	21%
Romania	19%
Italy	8%

19% of respondents intending to stay in Romania don't know how long they will stay in the country

47% of respondents intending to stay in Romania plan to stay in the country as long as conflict in Ukraine continues

Reported drivers for selection of destination country by respondents²

Family/friends in location of arrival	45%
Meeting displaced family or friends	11%
Job or livelihood opportunities there	8%
Advised by family or friends	6%

Reported accommodation type in destination country by respondents²

Staying with family/friend	36%
Don't know where to stay	28%
Collective center	10%
Accommodation provided by authorities	6%

¹ Multiple responses permitted. The sum might exceed 100%. ² Top four choices indicated by respondents. ³ Top three choices indicated by respondents.

⁴ Top five choices indicated by respondents.